

**STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Previously Presented) An affinity-tag labeled sublancin peptide comprising a chimeric polypeptide comprising a sublancin peptide, an amino acid spacer attached to the C-terminus of the sublancin peptide, and an affinity tag attached to the spacer, wherein the sublancin peptide comprises amino acid residues 1-37 of SEQ ID No. 2.

2. (Original) The affinity-tag labeled sublancin peptide of claim 1, wherein the sublancin peptide is obtained from *Bacillus subtilis*.

3. (Original) The affinity-tag labeled sublancin peptide of claim 2, wherein the sublancin peptide is obtained from *Bacillus subtilis* strain 168.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The affinity-tag labeled sublancin peptide of claim 1, wherein the spacer comprises from 1 to 15 amino acid residues.

6. (Cancelled) [*Note that the specification inadvertently contained two claim 6's; both claim 6's are cancelled*]

7. (Previously Presented) The affinity-tag labeled sublancin peptide of claim 25, wherein the affinity tag comprises from 2-6 histidine residues.

8. (Original) The affinity-tag labeled sublancin peptide of claim 7, wherein the affinity tag comprises about 6 histidine residues.

9-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) A method of purifying an affinity-tag labeled sublancin peptide from a solution, the peptide comprising a sublancin peptide, an amino acid spacer attached to the C-terminus of the sublancin peptide, and an affinity tag attached to the spacer, and wherein the method comprises contacting the peptide with a

solid support having an affinity for the affinity tag, and wherein the sublancin peptide comprises amino acid residues 1-37 of SEQ ID No. 2.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the spacer comprises from 1-15 amino acid residues.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the affinity tag comprises from 2-10 histidine residues.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the solid support is a nickel-coated plastic or magnetic bead.

20. (Previously Presented) A method for decontaminating a gram positive bacterial spore-infected area comprising treating the infected area with a spore-inhibiting effective amount of a peptide according to claim 1.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the spore-inhibiting effective amount of the sublancin protein is 0.01  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  to 10  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ .

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the bacterial spore is from at least one of *Bacillus*, *Enterococcus*, *Lactococcus*, *Listeria* and *Staphylococcus*.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the bacterial spore is from *Bacillus anthracis*.

24. (Previously Presented) The affinity-tag labeled sublancin peptide of claim 1, wherein the spacer comprises about 2-5 amino acid residues.

25. (Previously Presented) The affinity-tag labeled sublancin peptide of claim 1, wherein the affinity tag comprises from 2-10 histidine residues.